

### Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is allowable over the cited references.

The non-final Office Action dated May 4, 2004, indicated that claims 18 and 19 are allowed; the Information Disclosure Statement was not considered in its entirety; the declaration is defective; the title is objected to; claims 1-9, 15-17, 22-24 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over *Asai et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,553,309); and claims 10-14, 20, 21 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over *Inagami et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,881,168).

With respect to the non-initialed Information Disclosure Statement item, Applicant notes that the item is a book that was first published in 1990. The item was also cited and considered in the parent case to the instant application. Applicant relies upon the Examiner's judgment as to whether the item is considered relevant to the instant application.

With respect to the declaration, Applicant is attempting to obtain a new declaration and will submit it once acquired.

With respect to the title, Applicant has amended the title to more clearly characterize the claimed invention.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claims 18 and 19.

Claims 22, 23 and 25 have been canceled, thus the rejection of each of these claims is moot and Applicant requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Section 102(b) rejection with respect to the '309 reference because the Office Action fails to present a reference that corresponds to the claimed invention. With respect to independent claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 15 and 17, the Office Action fails to provide a basis for alleging that the asserted '309 condition vector is a result "of evaluating a predetermined conditional expression," as claimed. The cited portions of the '309 figure 6 indicate the opposite of that which is asserted in the Office Action, *i.e.*, the cited teachings indicate that the mask bits are independent. Applicant's review did not reveal how these mask bits are generated. Without a showing of correspondence to each of the claimed limitations, the Section 102(b) rejection is improper and cannot be maintained. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

With particular respect to claim 24, Applicant traverses the Section 102(b) rejection because the Office Action has not alleged any correspondence to, or presented any evidence as a basis for alleging that the '309 reference teaches limitations relative to the claimed "plural clusters." Without a showing of correspondence to each of the claimed limitations, the Section 102(b) rejection is improper and cannot be maintained.

With particular respect to claim 26, Applicant also traverses because the Office Action fails to present a basis for alleging correspondence to each of the claimed limitations. The Office Action alleges that the claimed buffer corresponds to item 3 of the '309 figure 1. However, item 3 of figure 1 is a general vector register which the flow diagram of figure 6 is intended to represent. Therefore, item 3 of figure 1 is not a separate register/buffer to which data is passed from the registers of figure 6. Moreover, the asserted vector device of figure 5 fails to correspond to the claimed controller because the figures fail to show a device that configures a switch "so that the switch is capable of transferring the input and output vector elements between any of the first plurality of entries of the buffer." Without a showing of correspondence to each of the claimed limitations, the Section 102(b) rejection is improper and cannot be maintained.

In view of the above deficiencies in the Office Action's rationale, Applicant submits that each of the claims 1-9, 15-17, 24 and 26, are patentable over the cited art, the Section 102(b) rejection is improper, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Section 102(b) rejection with respect to the '168 reference because the Office Action fails to present correspondence between each of the claimed limitations and the '168 reference. Regarding claims 10 and 11, the Office Action confusingly asserts that register 23 of figure 4 is an input buffer with a length of 10 and also asserts that item 21 is the input vector having a length of 16. Claim 10 is directed to the length of the condition vector being greater than the length of the input vector. The '168 reference indicates that item 21 is the input vector having a length of 16. None of the remaining items of figure 4 identify a vector with a length greater than 16, the asserted number of input vector elements. Similarly regarding claims 12 and 13, these claims are directed to a number of clusters being greater than the number of input vector elements. None of the items of figure 4 indicate a number of clusters greater than 16, the number of alleged input vector elements of item 21. Moreover, with respect to claim 14 (directed to length of the condition vector being greater than a length of the

input vector), figure 4, at best shows the asserted condition vector item 22 as being of the same length, not greater, than the asserted input vector item 21. Without a showing of correspondence to each of the claimed limitations, the Section 102(b) rejection is improper and cannot be maintained. Applicant accordingly requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

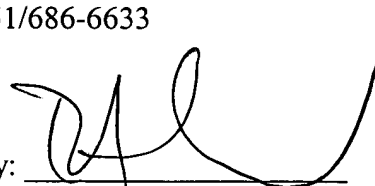
Further regarding claims 20 and 21, the Office Action fails to identify where the '168 reference teaches "each arithmetic cluster completing processing of one input vector element before another input vector element is distributed to the arithmetic cluster." The cited portion of the '168 reference teaches merely storing input vector data to alleged clusters and further fails to teach any iteration (claim 21). Without a showing of correspondence to each of the claimed limitations, the Section 102(b) rejection is improper and Applicant requests that it be withdrawn.

In view of the above discussion, Applicant believes that the rejection has been overcome and the application is in condition for allowance. A favorable response is requested. Should there be any remaining issues that could be readily addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (651) 686-6633.

Respectfully submitted,

CRAWFORD MAUNU PLLC  
1270 Northland Drive, Suite 390  
St. Paul, MN 55120  
651/686-6633

By:



Robert J. Crawford  
Reg. No. 32,122

Dated: August 3, 2004